



# St. John's United Church of Christ

## December 17, 2023

### Third Sunday of Advent



[\* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

#### "The Gift of Being Present"

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

\*THE INTROIT

*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

No. 134

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

- L. Though sometimes our hearts are heavy with burdens this is a Sunday of Rejoicing.
- P. **We come trusting that God will lift heavy burdens and wipe away tears in God's time.**
- L. Though in the world we see much darkness we gather here to catch a glimpse of God's glory and to know God's holy presence.
- P. **We come living with the hope and promises that God's light will break forth and all creation will be renewed in joy.**
- L. Let us worship the Holy One that we too might be renewed for the living of these days.

\*THE OPENING HYMN

*"All Earth Is Waiting"*

No. 139

\*THE INVOCATION (In Unison)

Holy Living Light of God, you are our Joyful Presence. Let this joy grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Joy to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen.<sup>WD</sup>

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 35

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES of Hope, Peace, & Joy

The Schotter Family

RESPONSE

*A Candle is Burning*

*(Tune: Away in a Manger)*

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy,**

**A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow**

**As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

*"If I Were There...."*

(see insert)

THE SONG

*"Away in a Manger"*

(words below)

*(Please join in singing as the children return to their seats.)*

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Holy One, you have done great things for us. As we rejoice in your blessings, let us also rejoice in the opportunity to spread your joy to others through these offerings. May these gifts help transform our community and our world. May they bring your justice, that we may all shout with joy! Amen<sup>\*\*</sup>

SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 61:1-4*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*Luke 1:46-55*

SERMON

*"Being Present with Joy"*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

\*THE HYMN

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

No. 164 (2, 3)

\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

\*THE HYMN

*"Go in Peace"*

No. 445

POSTLUDE

#### Worship Notes

<sup>WD</sup>Worship Design Studio; Marcia McFee (Sometimes Adapted)

<sup>\*\*</sup>From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*. Copyright © 2016 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

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Facebook: St. John's United Church  
of Christ

Please consider supporting St. John's United Church of Christ so we can continue to do God's work and mission here and throughout the world. Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office in person or by mail.

Worship services will be found on the church website, [www.myucc.org](http://www.myucc.org), by clicking on the "sermons" tab. And on the church Facebook page, *St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes*.

**Many hearts. Many voices. One church.**

#### **THE LESSON FROM ISAIAH**

*How do the words of Isaiah speak to you in your life?*

##### **Isaiah 61:1-4**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- Continuing Prayer Requests Bruce Deckard, Don Osborne, Jr., Dale Linneweber, Dan Roark & Family, for Gary Myer and family. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.
- Our condolences and heart felt sympathy go out the family of Danny Roark who we lost this week. Please keep all of them in your prayers in this very difficult time.
- Our cousin Martha Wilson's husband Morris will be having spinal surgery on Wednesday, Dec 13th. Martha has been coming to church. Prayers will be appreciated for a successful surgery and recovery. Thank you Sarah Lowe and Lonny Vieck



### Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

**Norma Meyer**, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 142, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Susie Milligan**, Colonial Assisted Living, - 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Joy Tooley**, Willow Manor, - 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

**Leona Conway**, Willow Manor, -request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

**Marge Beamon**, Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

**Franklyn Schroeder**, Oak Village Health Care Center – 200 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

### Home

Alexander Family  
Bruce Deckard

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (chairman of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.



## "YOUR CHECK ARRIVED JUST IN TIME!"

*Each year, the Pension Boards receives many notes and letters of thanks from retired United Church of Christ pastors, their surviving spouses, and children, letting us know what a difference your gifts to the Christmas Fund have made in their lives. Here are just a few excerpts:*

"On behalf of my mother, I would like to thank you for the generous check from the Pension Boards. She has recently moved to assisted living at the age of 101! She was choir director at her church up until last year and was playing the organ for worship services once a month for the past 20 years. As a member of the UCC, I have often contributed to the Veterans of the Cross offering and it is wonderful to know my Mom is a beneficiary."

"What a joy to receive a check from the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance as a surprise Christmas gift! My wife (88) and I (95) thank you! It will help greatly in paying our bills at year's end."

"I want to thank you for the generous \$500 that was given to me by your Board. It really has been appreciated as I paid my house taxes for the winter. It would have been a very difficult burden without your check."

"Your check arrived just in time! It helped pay for a much-needed repair to my car, which I rely on since I live in a remote area and need transportation to medical appointments. I feel blessed to be remembered by you and the members of our UCC churches!"

### In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund  
Give online at [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org).

## ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

|                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastors                               | Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri |
|                                       | Rev Linda Frische-Mouri  |
| Head Usher                            | Steve Cooper             |
| Organist                              | DeEtta Welte             |
| Music Director, Pianist               | Becky Brockman           |
| Children /Family Ministry Coordinator | Will Meyer               |
| Nursery Attendant                     | Darcie Bahr              |
| Projection                            | Saundra Lange            |
| Sound                                 | Andrew Anson             |
| Church Secretary                      | Angie Robinson           |
| Church Board President                | Jana Vieck               |
| Pastoral Search Chair                 | Sheri Stodghill          |



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, [myucc.org](http://myucc.org) Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



SUNDAY, December 17  
 Sunday School 9:15 am  
 Fellowship 10:00 am  
 Children's Christmas Program  
 MONDAY, December 18  
 Babe Store 12-5:30pm  
 Friends 5-6:15 pm  
 Worship Comm. 6pm  
 Church Board 7pm

WEDNESDAY, December 20  
 Dinner & Conversation American Table 5pm  
 Choir 7pm  
 FRIDAY, December 22  
 Newsletter Deadline



Any items left out in kitchen after January 1, 2024 will be disposed of. Please help us to keep our facility clean and uncluttered.

The Evangelism and Membership Committee is **LOOKING** for:

Greeters: Two people, one for the ramp entrance and the other from the bell tower entrance, to warmly greet everybody that enters our doors.

\*Build positive relationships with those that come more frequently or are members.

\* Take time with individuals that are relatively new guests to our church, letting them know that you are there to be of assistance (finding restrooms, signing red books, access blankets, hearing devices, back rests, wheelchairs etc. Making them aware of our nursery room and staff, if needed, and giving out first time a visitor's bag. If you are interested in serving as a greeter on a Sunday or two. Please sign up on hallway bulletin board or contacting church office at [stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com).

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### **SUNDAY, December 24**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
 Christmas Service  
 Merry Christmas

#### **MONDAY, December 25**

Office Closed

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 27**

Laundry Love 6-8pm  
 Choir 7pm